## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ruch, et al.

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING BONES IN A

HEALING POSITION

Application No.: 10/712,574

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Group Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Michael J. Araj

Atty. Docket No.: 24179785.010031

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

## I. Introductory Comments

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed on January 31, 2007. The accompanying amendments and remarks are responsive to the Office Action. Applicants enclose a Petition for a three-month extension of time making the responsive date July 31, 2007.

Amendment to the Specification begins on page 2 of this paper.

Listing of Claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.